

SUBJECT:	ADOPTION OF A REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS
MEETING:	COUNCIL
DATE:	12th MAY 2016
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. **PURPOSE:** For the council to adopt a revised code of conduct for members.
2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** That the council adopts the revised code of conduct attached to the report.
3. **KEY ISSUES:**

The Welsh Government passed the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016 (“the Order”) on 27th January 2016 which introduced a revised model code of conduct for members. All relevant authorities, that is, county/county borough councils, community and town councils, fire and rescue authorities and the national park authorities must within six months of the date of the Order, adopt the revised code of conduct, hence the report to members for their consideration.

The changes to the code of conduct made by the Order are relatively minor:-

- a) Paragraph 10(2)(b) has been omitted. This paragraph has caused problems from the inception of the current code of conduct in 2008. It created unintended difficulties in the practical application of paragraph 10(2)(b) in relation to a member’s participation in business relating to constituency interests.
- b) Further paragraph 6(1)(c) has been amended so that there is no longer an obligation on a member to report a potential breach of the code of conduct by another member to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. However a member must still report to the monitoring officer any conduct by another member that (s)he reasonably believes breaches the code of conduct.
- c) Paragraph 15 of the code of conduct, dealing with the register of member’s interests, is amended to clarify that any interest disclosed for the first time must be entered in the register. This is not a change of policy, but clarifies the original intention. In relation to a community or town council, reference to a monitoring officer is replaced with a reference to the proper officer of the community/town council.

Members will not be required to give a new undertaking to abide by the revised code of conduct, as your original declaration covers any changes to the code of conduct during your term of office.

The revised version of the code of conduct is attached to the report.

4. **REASONS:** To comply with the requirements of the Order to adopt a revised code of conduct by 26th July 2016.
5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** Costs of publishing a notice in a newspaper circulating in the area that the council has adopted the revised code of conduct.
6. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:** None
7. **SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:** NONE
8. **CONSULTEES:** The Standards Committee was consulted on the changes in its meeting on 14th March 2016.
9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None
10. **AUTHOR:** Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Temporary Monitoring Officer
11. **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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